

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/889,191

Examiner

George C Yeung

Applicant(s)

TORNGREN ET AL

Art Unit

1761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed on January 9, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) ~~is~~ are 1-26 and 28-34.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 12 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

George C Yeung
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1761

Examiner's Amendment

In order to correct obvious informalities, pursuant to M.P.E.P. 1302.04, the following changes have been made by the Examiner:

1. In the amended claim 1, lines 1, 10 and 17, the term "food" has been changed to - -foodstuff- - (note that the change of the term in claim 1 is for the purpose of providing a proper antecedent basis for "the foodstuff" recited in claim 1, lines 3 and 6, and claim 4, lines 4, 5 and 7).
2. In the amended claim 2, lines 1, 16 and 17, the term "food" has been changed to - -foodstuff- -.
3. In the amended claim 3, lines 1, 10 and 21, the term "food" has been changed to - -foodstuff- -.
4. In the amended claims 11-13, lines 4 and 6 of each, the term "food" has been changed to - -foodstuff- -.
5. In the amended claim 14, lines 1, 5, and 19, the term "food" has been changed to - -foodstuff- - (note that the change of the term in claim 14 is for the purpose of providing a proper antecedent basis for "the foodstuff" recited in dependent claims 15-20).
6. In claim 24, lines 1 and 11, the term "food" has been changed to - -foodstuff- -.
7. In the amended claim 29, lines 5 and 8, the term "food" has been changed to - -foodstuff- -.

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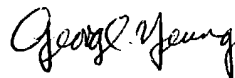
8. In the amended claim 30, last line, the term "food" has been changed to - - foodstuff- -.

9. In the amended claim 33, lines 7 and 10, the term "food" has been changed to - -foodstuff- -.

10. In the amended claim 34, line 2, the term "food" has been changed to - - foodstuff- -.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not show or suggest the microwave oven as claimed in claim 14 and the method of thawing frozen foodstuff in a microwave oven as claimed in claims 1-3 and 24, which microwave oven comprises a microwave source, an oven cavity, and a control unit. The control unit is provided with an input signal containing information about the weight of the foodstuff, and causes the microwave source to feed microwaves at high average power of more than 400 W into the oven cavity during a first time interval as well as a second time interval, which are separated by a waiting period, so that the foodstuff will be essentially thawed by the end of the second time interval.



GEORGE C. YEUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER